

Submitted by
Yashica Ellis

This kind of legislation is very important to me and others like me. I am very eager to motivate momentum in regards to getting this bill passed into law. I would like to briefly share my story and help shed perspective on why a bill of this magnitude is so important.

Thirteen years ago, I committed a very unnecessary and senseless crime, Embezzlement-Agent or Trustee Over \$100 (750.174B). I was 19 and didn't understand the enormity of my actions until years later. I couldn't see pass my own ego, desires, and selfishness to understand how this would affect me for the rest of my life.

I enrolled in Baker College in the fall of 2002 after taking some adult education classes there. I graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Health Services Administration in the spring of 2007. I almost didn't complete the program after applying for an expungment in 2006 and having it denied due to prior traffic misdemeanors. This was a severe setback to my frame of mind because this meant the past three years of my educational career were a complete waste of time and money. I was heartbroken and utterly devastated after court that day. I felt as if all my hard work and determination was in vain because ultimately, I would not be allowed to work in my field of study so why should I pursue this any further?

All I wanted was a chance to prove I could make a difference if given a chance to show the world what I'm capable of. I believe people do change provided they have the patience, opportunity and resources to do so. Some change is inevitable; it's how we as humans evolve. As we get older most of us learn from our mistakes and are better humans because of our past faults. Sometimes we can use these experiences to help someone else overcome barriers in their lives or lend a different perspective so they too can catch a glimpse of the bigger picture and possibly be led down a positive path instead of the alternative. There are a lot of good people in this world and sometimes good people do bad things, but we must not write them off. We have to believe in one another and be willing to step up and be that example for those to come after us.

It was a couple months after the rejection of my motion that this epiphany came to me. I realized that just because I hit a roadblock in my path doesn't mean I give away my car! I dug even deeper within myself and continued with my classes. My grades improved from quarter to quarter and I kept my focus of graduating with honors. I not only graduated with honors, but also with the honor of being program winner for my degree concentration in Health Services Administration. I started getting more involved with community activities in Genesee County like AIDS awareness and food drives for the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

I don't believe my past offenses define who I am today, who I will be tomorrow, or even who I was yesterday. I believe it just shows a small snapshot of a few pages in the many volumes that make up my life. I don't believe it's fair to judge a person based on their mistakes, especially when they have demonstrated the ability to learn from and rise above them. When it's all said and done, no one cares about the good you have done, most only reflect on the bad. That, my friends is a very sad truth that plagues people like me and keeps us from obtaining the glorious comeback we so desperately desire.

I wholeheartedly urge you to make an earnest attempt to see this bill through the legislation process and enacted into law. You cannot ignore the fact that local courts throughout Michigan have seen a drastic increase in people trying to have convictions cleared from their records. In Genesee County alone, courts had 120 requests for expungement in 2008 according to the state attorney general's office. So far this year, there have been at least 40 requests in Genesee County to clear records. Statewide, there were 3,019 requests last year, compared with 2,005 in 2005. Many of whom are just like me in regards to being a nonviolent offender whom simply woke up and took responsibility by going back to school in order to find meaningful employment and take care of their families. I know some people are split on this issue, maybe they understand that some people deserve a second chance but there are those with violent crimes in their past who are cause for concerns. Some people simply feel that maybe they should not have their records cleared. I'm not saying I know the answer. Maybe they should maybe they should not but that does not mean everyone should be treated the same either. Ultimately, it's up to the judge to decide whether or not it's true or false for that particular individual when their time comes for redemption. All I am saying to all of you today is that they should at least have the opportunity to try to be better human beings in spite of their past errors in judgment.



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
GENESEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT PROBATION

PATRICIA L. CARUSO
DIRECTOR

May 12, 2009

To: Michigan Legislative Committee

From: Denise Smith Allen, Probation Agent
Michigan Department of Corrections

Subject: Yashica Ellis and HB 4405

It is indeed an honor and privilege to submit this letter of recommendation for the above offender. Ms. Ellis was under supervision with me during her probationary term. As with many young people, poor decision making can produce dire consequences that impact their future life circumstances.

Ms. Ellis has made a complete turn around from the person she was at 20 years old. Her education has been a catalyst for change and in the field that she pursued it is paramount for her record to be expunged. The subsequent misdemeanor convictions of driving while license suspended while serious is not the most heinous crime however is more reflective of not understanding the repercussions of her actions.

What is most important is that Ms. Ellis has taken care of these matters in a timely fashion and is motivated to further her education by obtaining a Masters in Public Administration with a concentration in Health Care. It would be a travesty of justice to prevent her from being a law abiding taxpayer who is involved with a vocation that she has worked hard to pursue.

It is my hope that that HB 4405 will be adopted which would allow countless persons like Ms. Ellis to become productive citizens and break the cycle of recidivism based on lack of opportunity.

If you are in need of further information, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience at 810.424.4733.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Smith Allen
Probation Agent

TRANSCRIPT INQUIRY - UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
WORKING COPY

102-23388	810 789-6637		HRS	HRS	HNR	GPA	
YASHICA ELLIS			ATT	ERN	PTS	HRS	GPA
4047 ROCHDALE DR		SAP VIOL/COND					
FLINT MI 48504-1131		CUM	218	222	757.6	218	3.48
DEGREE CER	CONCENTRATION WEBO	VERSION 2006A		MINOR		MINOR	
WEB DESIGN							

TRANSFER CREDIT INFORMATION

9346 ARTICULATION PROGRAM

MED	103	MED TERMINOLOGY	4				
SCI	100E	BASIC HUMAN ANATOMY	4				
		ATT	ERN	HNR	PTS	GPA	HR
		CUR	0	8	.0		0
		CUM	0	8	.0		0

FALL 2002

COL	111	COLL SUCCESS STRAT	1	NC	.0	FL
HSC	161	LGL CNCPTS MED PRACT	2	B	6.0	FL
INF	112	WORD PROCESSING	2	A-	7.4	FL
MIS	121	INTRO TO MED INS	4	B-	10.8	FL
MTH	099A	BASIC MATHEMATICS	4	A-	14.8	FL

		ATT	ERN	HNR	PTS	GPA	HR	GPA
		CUR	12	12	39.0		12	3.25
		CUM	12	20	39.0		12	3.25

WINTER 2003

ENG	099	ENGLISH REVIEW	4	A	16.0	FL
MIS	131	ICD-9-CM CODING	4	W	.0	FL
		WTH 2003/01/27	LDA	2003/01/22		
MTH	101	MATH FOR BUSINESS	4	B+	13.2	FL
SCI	104	INTRO TO DISEASE	4	B	12.0	FL

		ATT	ERN	HNR	PTS	GPA	HR	GPA
		CUR	12	12	41.2		12	3.43
		CUM	24	32	80.2		24	3.34

SPRING 2003

ENG	101	COMPOSITION I	4	A	16.0	FL
INF	113	ELECT SPREADSHEETS	2	A-	7.4	FL
INF	114	FILE MANAGEMENT	2	A-	7.4	FL
SPK	201	ORAL COMMUNICATION	4	A-	14.8	FL

ACADEMIC STANDING: DEAN'S LIST

		ATT	ERN	HNR	PTS	GPA	HR	GPA
		CUR	12	12	45.6		12	3.80
		CUM	36	44	125.8		36	3.49

FALL 2003

COL	111A	COLL SUCCESS STRAT	0	S	.0	FL
HIT	100	HEALTH CARE DELIVERY	4	C+	9.2	FL
MTH	111	INTRODUCTORY ALGEBRA	4	B+	13.2	FL
SCI	101C	HUMAN ANAT & PHYS I	5	B+	16.5	FL

		ATT	ERN	HNR	PTS	GPA	HR	GPA
		CUR	13	13	38.9		13	2.99
		CUM	49	57	164.7		49	3.36

WINTER 2004

ENG	102	COMPOSITION II	4	A	16.0	FL
HIT	101A	HLTH DATA CNT & STCT	4	B+	13.2	FL
MTH	112	INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA	4	I	.0	FL
SCI	102C	HUMAN ANAT & PHYS II	5	A	20.0	FL

ACADEMIC STANDING: DEAN'S LIST

TRANSCRIPT INQUIRY - UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
WORKING COPY

102-23388 810 789-6637
 YASHICA ELLIS
 4047 ROCHDALE DR
 FLINT MI 48504-1131
 DEGREE CER CONCENTRATION WEBO
 WEB DESIGN

HRS
ATT

HRS
ERN

HNR
PTS

GPA
HRS

GPA

SAP VIOL/COND

CUM 218 222 757.6 218 3.48

MINOR MINOR

CUM 126 134 430.2 126 3.41

FALL 2005

HSC	401	HEALTH CARE ADMIN	4	B+	13.2	FL
MGT	211	MGT & SUPERVISION	4	B	12.0	FL
WRI	301	ADV REPORT WRITING	4	B	12.0	FL\OL

	ATT	ERN	HNR	PTS	GPA	HR	GPA
CUR	12	12		37.2		12	3.10
CUM	138	146		467.4		138	3.39

WINTER 2006

ACC	121	FUNDAMENT OF ACCT I	4	A	16.0	FL
HSC	402A	ETHICS FOR HLTH PROF	4	A-	14.8	FL
MGT	212	HUMAN RESOURCE MGT	4	A	16.0	FL\OL

ACADEMIC STANDING: DEAN'S LIST

	ATT	ERN	HNR	PTS	GPA	HR	GPA
CUR	12	12		46.8		12	3.90
CUM	150	158		514.2		150	3.43

SPRING 2006

HSC	403	HEALTH SYSTEM FINANC	4	A	16.0	FL
MGT	250	CONFLICT MANAGEMENT	4	A	16.0	FL\OL
SOC	301	SOCIAL PROBLEMS	4	A	16.0	FL\OL

ACADEMIC STANDING: PRESIDENT'S LIST

	ATT	ERN	HNR	PTS	GPA	HR	GPA
CUR	12	12		48.0		12	4.00
CUM	162	170		562.2		162	3.47

SUMMER 2006

GEO	101	WESTERN GEOGRAPHY	4	A-	14.8	FL\OL
HIS	301	WOMEN'S STUDIES	4	A	16.0	FL\OL

ACADEMIC STANDING: DEAN'S LIST

	ATT	ERN	HNR	PTS	GPA	HR	GPA
CUR	8	8		30.8		8	3.85
CUM	170	178		593.0		170	3.49

FALL 2006

HSC	312	HEALTH LAW & REGULAT	4	A-	14.8	FL
HSC	315	PLAN&EVAL HLTH SERV	4	B-	10.8	FL
SOC	321	CULTURAL DIVERSITY	4	A-	14.8	FL\OL

	ATT	ERN	HNR	PTS	GPA	HR	GPA
CUR	12	12		40.4		12	3.37
CUM	182	190		633.4		182	3.48

WINTER 2007

HSC	411	SEMINAR HEALTH ISSUE	4	A	16.0	FL
MGT	222	MANAGEMENT SEMINAR	4	A	16.0	FL\OL
MGT	350	SERVICES MANAGEMENT	4	A	16.0	FL\OL

ACADEMIC STANDING: PRESIDENT'S LIST

	ATT	ERN	HNR	PTS	GPA	HR	GPA
CUR	12	12		48.0		12	4.00
CUM	194	202		681.4		194	3.51

SPRING 2007

MGT	405	CONTEMP MGT STRAT	4	A	16.0	FL\OL
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16TH Annual Minorities in Higher Education
Awards Program
This certificate is issued to

Justicia Ellis

In recognition of scholastic achievement and excellence
On this 12th day of October 2003

Dr. Julianne T. Princiensky
Dr. Julianne T. Princiensky, President
Baker College of Flint

Juan E. Mestas
Dr. Juan E. Mestas, Chancellor
University of Michigan - Flint

Dr. M. Richard Shank
Dr. M. Richard Shank, President
Mott Community College

James E. A. John
Dr. James E. A. John, President
Kettering University

Wilma Mitchell
Wilma Mitchell, Executive Director
Davenport University - Flint

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Presented to

Sharia Ellis

In recognition of academic achievement and excellence

On this 17th day of October 2004

17th Annual Minorities in Higher Education Award Program

Dr. Julianne T. Princinsky

Dr. Julianne T. Princinsky, President
BAKER COLLEGE OF FLINT

Wilma Mitchell

Wilma Mitchell, Executive Director
DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY-FLINT

Dr. M. Richard Shaink

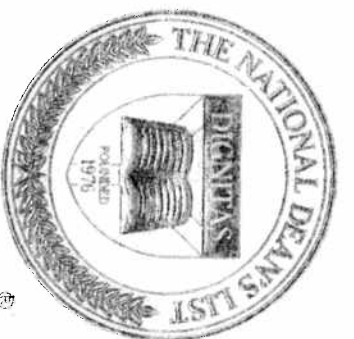
Dr. M. Richard Shaink, President
MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

James E. A. John

Dr. James E. A. John, President
KETTERING UNIVERSITY

Juan E. Mestas

Dr. Juan E. Mestas, Chancellor
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT



This is to certify that

YASHICA SHANAE ELLIS

is represented in the

2004-2005

edition of

The National Dean's List

Students, institutions and organizations recognized in this national publication are to be commended for their high standards of academic excellence, community leadership and positive performance.

Patke H. Davis

*Patke H. Davis, Chairman, National Academic Affairs
The National Dean's List®*

HONORING AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING COLLEGE STUDENTS®



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mu Phi Chapter

2005 CARDINAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Presented to

Yashua Ellis

In recognition for your dedication to scholastic achievement and commitment to political and economic awareness as evidenced by your Outstanding Scholarship Application

3/12/05

Date

Kelia Moses

Kelia Moses, President



Keeping the Connection, Building on the Past, and Focusing on the Future

*The Devastating Divas of
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Mu Phi Chapter*

Congratulate...

Nashkia Ellis

For being the 2006 Cardinal Scholarship Recipient
at our Annual Scholarship Ball on May 6th, 2006

You are receiving this award
because of your academic
excellence and your ability to
effectively express your views on
current world issues.
The members of Mu Phi Chapter
thank you for your participation
and hope that you continue to
excel academically
and professionally.

Deborah M. Evans
2006 Chapter President

Debbie Brasher
2006 Scholarship Ball Chair

REGION 1-C WOMEN'S COUNCIL

PRESENTS

THE



**RUBEN BURK'S
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Yashica Ellis

For the continuance of Excellence in Education

On this 30th day of October in the year of 2004

Ruben Burk
FOUNDER

Barb Young
COUNCIL CHAIR

REGION 1-C WOMEN'S COUNCIL

PRESENTS

The

RUBEN BURKS

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Yashica Ellis

For the continuance of Excellence in Education

On this 20th day Of October in the year of 2007

Ruben Burks

Founder

Jane Blume

Council Chair





Wellness AIDS Services INC.

Would like to extend our gratitude to

Yashica S. Ellis

For contributing to the success of our agency

September 6, 2006

Presenter Name and Title